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# Author's first notes.

Hello!

Before reading, I must give a warning that this book has a hint of cannibalisim, (Nothing too bad, very minor.)

I would like to give thanks to Sassafrasgirl1, and Cheetahpaw belongs to her.

I would also like to give thanks to MsMistyfrost for the wonderful cover. Thanks so much, Misty!

Another big thanks to Awesomebacon, my editor. Without her amazing skills, this book just wouldn't be the same.

So, we have two kits, Rainkit and Iriskit, I must admit, Rainkit would have to be my favorite character in the whole book. She's very interesting, especially later in the book.

Now, if you're bothering to read my crummy writing, thank you so much!

Now, let's move on, to the story.

Best cookies,

Pigandcats.

# Allegiances

Duskclan.

Leader-Talonstar: large white, fluffy tom with piercing yellow eyes.

Deputy Grayfoot.- old dark gray tom with green eyes and nicked ears.

Medicine cat- lunawish- pretty black she cat with dark blue eyes and a grackle feather tucked behind her ear.

Apprentice- sparrowpaw.

Warriors

Falconclaw- dark tabby tom with a cream chest and long, sharp claws.

Applefrost- pretty dark red she cat with white dapples and blue eyes.

(apprentice: indigopaw)

Tideflash- handsome dark brown tom with one gray paw.

(apprentice: Airpaw)

Foxfur- tan she cat with pale blue eyes.

BronzeFeather- Dark golden tom with black paws and yellow eyes.

Honeyblaze- black she-cat with white markings on her tail and honey colored eyes.

(apprentice; mudpaw.)

Foggymist- pale gray she-cat with clouded pale blue eyes.

Ospreyscreech- black-brown tom with a cream stomach and tail.

Amber eyes.

Flashclaw- dark gray, almost black, tom with a white chest and dark green eyes.

Sweetwillow- tiny dark ginger she-cat with red legs and ears. Light green eyes.

Scarheart- very light brown she-cat with many, many scars on her face, stomach, and ears.

(apprentice:Soringpaw.)

Jaybreeze: silver tom with black splashes and dark blue eyes.

Shadowstorm- very pale tan tom with one black ear and very dark brown-amber eyes.

Streamwing- white she-cat with a silver undercoat and one blue eye, one green.

Pantherfur- black tom with bright yellow eyes.

(apprentice: locketpaw.)

Orchidblossom- Pretty white she-cat with ginger, golden, and red patches. Dark green eyes.

(apprentice: tornadopaw.)

Rainstorm- dark gray tom with silver ears. Blue eyes.

Blazeflight- dark ginger she- cat with dark green eyes.

Daisysun- yellow she- cat with white patches and blue eyes.

Strikeheart- red tom with black splashes, long claws.

Wonderstripe- cream she-cat with a black stripe down her back and black markings.

Skysoar- light gray tom with white patches and dark blue eyes.

Earthspririt- brown she-cat with black splashes and dark green eyes.

Boneclaw- white tom with a black splash on his back. Green eyes.

Robinfeather- light red tom with shocking yellow eyes.

Littlefall- pale cream tom with white splashes.

Apprentices:

Indigopaw- black tom with dark blue eyes and silver splashes.

Airpaw- misty gray-white she-cat with pale blue eyes.

Soringpaw- dark brown tom with black and cream markings.

Locketpaw- tiny pale ginger she-cat with forest green eyes and a white tail.

Sparrowpaw- tabby tom with a cream stomach and blue eyes. Training to be medicine cat.

Tornadopaw- light brown tom with a black dash on his forehead.

Mudpaw- white tom with brown splashes.

Queens.

Swanwing- white she-cat with dark blue eyes. Mother to iriskit (Cream she-cat with dark green eyes.) and rainkit. (gray she-cat with cloudy white patches, amber eyes)

Browneye- dark brown she-cat with golden splashes and yellow eyes. Mother to slashkit, (dark red tom with black splashes.) and stripekit, (light tabby she-cat.)

Darkpelt- black she-cat with dark blue eyes.

Whispersong- tortoiseshell she-cat with pale green eyes.

Elders.

Splashheart- silver she-cat with a white chest. Swanwing's mother.

Treepelt- cream tom with dark green eyes.

# Chapter one~ The beginning of the end.

"What in the name of the Dark Forest is wrong with you?!"

Irispaw staggered up. Her sister, Murderpaw, stood, crouched down, her white and silver coat stained with blood.

Tears streamed down Irispaw's face. "You're not the cat you once were! You changed your name, your ways, everything!"

Murderpaw growled, unsheathed her long, thorn-sharp claws, and leapt at Irispaw, aiming for her throat.

Her name is Irisflower. She knows what you are thinking. Who is Murderpaw? Why is she fighting with her? Well all your questions will be answered soon if you listen to her story. Let's go back six moons ago, just when she arrived in DuskClan.

"Iriskit! Wake up!"

Iriskit opened her dark green eyes. Her sister, Rainkit, stood above her. Rainkit's fluffy white and silver coat complimented her bright amber eyes.

"Slashkit, Happykit, Stripekit, she opened her eyes!"

Slashkit, a dark red tom with black slashes and his tabby sister, Stripekit, bounded over. They were followed by a jet black she-cat named Happykit.

"Finally! A tom to play with in the nursery!" mewed Slashkit. "You are a tom, aren't you?"

Iriskit shook her head.

Rainkit stepped on Slashkit's tail. "That ball of cream fluff is a she-cat!" she squealed.

After a moment, Rainkit and Slashkit burst into laughter, falling onto the mossy floor of the small cave that made up the nursery.

Iriskit turned to her mother, Swanwing, for support. But she was dissapointed when she saw the pure white she-cat was asleep.

"Hey, let's fight!" Slashkit said, pulling Rainkit to his side. "You EmberClan scum!" he hissed to the remaining kits. "DuskClan is the greatest!"

"No fair!" squeaked Stripekit. "We got the newborn!"

*It's not my fault I opened my eyes so late!* Iriskit thought.

Rainkit squealed and pounced on Iriskit, bouncing on her. Slashkit hurled himself at Happykit and Stripekit, knocking them over with his huge paws.

Iriskit struggled under Rainkit's weight. *You're a warrior of Duskclan, the clan of the lush forests.* Iriskit quickly thought. . *I can take these cats!*

Iriskit leapt into the air, twisting herself around and landing on Rainkit's back. Rainkit squealed and shook Iriskit off.

Slashkit had thrown a shouting Happykit and Stripekit off his stomach and was now coming closer and closer to Iriskit his tiny, yet sharp, claws extended.

"Well, you are quite the little warriors, aren't you?"

A tall, pure white, and fluffy tom stalked into the den. His eyes were piercing yellow and his muzzle, covered with scars from battles many moons ago.

"Talonstar!" All the kits shouted. Happykit and Stripekit bounced at his paws while Slashkit unsheathed his claws and stood up straight, trying to look big and powerful.

Rainkit climbed onto Talonstar's back, jumping and pawing at his fur. There was something about Rainkit and Talonstar's fur and body shaped that matched so much. Iriskit couldn't put her paw on

it.

Swanwing awoke from her nap and padded up to Iriskit, whispering in her ear, "It must be nice to meet your father for the first time, hm?"

# Chapter Two~The battle.

Outside of the camp, Talonstar leapt onto a large, silver boulder, claw marks of the ancient leaders covering the rock.

"LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY JOIN ME BELOW THE SILVER ROCK FOR A CLAN MEETING!"

Half of the clan were already outside their dens, as if they had known Talonstar was going to call a meeting.

Swanwing nudged Iriskit from her rest. Rainkit was already awake, bouncing up and down with Slashkit at her side.

Browneye gathered her kits near her with the swish of her long tail. "Come on you two. Don't wake Whispersong."

The five kits raced out of the nursery, each one fluffed up with excitement. Darkpelt, Happykit's mother, was trying frantically to groom her daughter.

Iriskit gazed up at her father as she watched the clan settle down. She noticed the other kits taking a seat beside their mother.

"I have gathered you all here for a ceremony," Talonstar began. "Iriskit, Rainkit, Happykit, Stripekit, and Slashkit have reached six moons. It is time for them to become apprentices." He nodded towards the kits. "Come forward."

With a gulp, Iriskit stepped up in front of her father. The other kits did the same.

After what felt like forever, Iriskit watched as Happypaw recieved Ospreyscreech as her mentor. Stripepaw recieved Foggymist while Slashpaw got Bronzefeather. Then Talonstar turned to Rainkit.

"Rainkit," he mewed. "From this day forward until you recieve your warrior name, you shall be known as Rainpaw."

"RAINPAW! RAINPAW!" the clan chanted.

"Foxfur will be your mentor," Talonstar announced.

Iriskit turned her head, recognizing the tan she-cat. Foxfur had turned to a short life of madness after her mate, Goldenblaze, died of a rat attack. She had hissed and attacked any cat that went near her. She would scream Goldenblaze's name into the night sky, awake or asleep.

Although Foxfur recovered, she wasn't the most popular choice. Foxfur seemed surprise and happy padding over to Rainpaw and touching her nose to her's.

*Maybe Foxfur isn't so bad after all.* Iriskit thought.

"Iriskit, step forward," Talonstar meowed.

Holding back a shudder, Iriskit slowly stepped closer towards her father.

"From this moment, until you recieve your warrior name, you shall be known as Irispaw," he proclaimed.

"IRISPAW! IRISPAW!" the clan cheered.

Irispaw lifted up her head, drinking in the voices of her clanmates that stood before her.

"Falconclaw," Talonstar mewed. A hint of amusement was detected in his mew. "You have been excellently mentored by...me." A few of the older warriors chuckled. "And I hope you pass your great skills down to Irispaw."

Irispaw's eyes widened as she stared at her mentor. Falconclaw's tabby pelt shimmered in the sunlight, and his dark green eyes glowed with happiness. He padded forward to Irispaw and touched his nose to hers.

"I promise I'll be great," Irispaw whispered.

"You'll be even better," Falconclaw purred.

With a smile, Irispaw lifted her head.

"Meeting dismissed," Talonstar meowed, leaping off the Silver Rock.

The clan then broke off into groups, the new apprentices breaking into clusters around their mentors.

"What can we do first?"

"Can we meet the other apprentices?"

"How about some battle training?"

It was Ospreyscreech who spoke first. "First, we will all give you a tour of the territory."

The apprentices nodded, eager to begin.

Orchidblossom padded up with Tornadopaw at her side. "Would you mind if the older apprentices and their mentors took them out too? They could use a good walk."

Falconclaw nodded. Orchidblossom smiled and gathered the older apprentices together. Their mentors padded up beside them.

With a nod from Foxfur, the large group of cats padded out of camp.

Rainpaw padded over to Foxfur's side. "Where to first?"

Foxfur gazed up. "Actually, we need to check the EmberClan border. They have been causing a lot of trouble lately." Her eyes clouded, as if she was lost in a memory.

After a few moments, the cats reached the EmberClan border. Irispaw gazed out into the territory. The territory was beautiful, consisting of mainly willow trees.

"Look what the dog dragged in!" A fluffy, light gray tom remarked. He leapt up in front of the patrol. He was an apprentice-obviously aged, but still looked a few moons older than Irispaw.

Several more cats leapt up beside him. It was enough to match the group of DuskClan cats. With a gulp, irispaw realized only two of the cats on the EmberClan patrol were apprentices. The rest were strong, fit warriors.

A huge, dark ginger tom with long, sharp claws and piercing blue eyes, stepped forward. His flaming gaze raked the patrol. Stepping up beside him, a dappled golden tom kept his eyes focused on the ground. Looking closer, Irisipaw noticed his gaze was completely dull, as if his pupils were a foggy gray. His body did not move one inch.

"Fireshadow," Falconclaw mewed to he ginger tom, "We don't want any trouble."

Fireshadow frowned, gazing at his large patrol. "Oh, you don't want any trouble? Then why are you on our land?" Fireshadow gazed at the dappled tom. "Ground. Now."

The dappled tom instantly dropped to the ground, his dull gaze carefull fixated at the DuskClan cats' paws. After a moment, he lifted himself back up and whispered, "On the territory." His voice was so inaudible, dull, and quick that it was barely more than sigh.

Fireshadow nodded and instantly threw himself at Falconclaw. He knocked the warrior over. Falconclaw growled and and pushed himself at Fireshadow's stomach.

The line of EmberClan warriors hissed and lunged at the DuskClan cats. Before Orchidblossom had a chance to push the younger apprentice back, a misty gray she-cat threw herself at the patched warrior.

Irisipaw watched as the dappled apprentice lifted his head and backed up slowly, laying on his stomach and burying his face in his paws, as if he were tucking himself away.

Irisipaw felt claws rake her side. A small, brown tom was pushing her down, his white teeth bared. Irispaw fell hard on her side. She never got any battle training, as it was her first day of apprenticeship.

The tom laughed and ducked, slashing his claws down her stomach. *I need to try!* Irispaw thought.

Irispaw lifted her paw and whacked it at the tom's cheek. Undaunted, the tom grabbed her scruff in his teeth and threw her to the ground, pinning her down.

Irisipaw struggled underneath the weight of the brown tom. He unsheathed his claws and pressed them to her throat. Pressing harder and harder by the second...

Irispaw's gaze and hearing became foggy. Irispaw looked around, noticing that her clanmates were also struggling with the EmberClan cats. Then her gaze began to grow darker...

Suddenly, the cat's neck was twisted at an odd angle, and his eyes turned dull. He fell to the side, landing in the grass. Standing above Irispaw, Rainpaw was glaring at the body. Irispaw thought she caught a flash of smugness behind her gaze.

"Good thing that I was here to save you," Rainpaw meowed. "Let's not ever forget that."

"How could I?" Irispaw said, struggling to get up. She blinked for a moment, trying to regain her senses. Then she brushed her sister's shoulder. "But we still have to--"

She was cut off as Rainpaw shouted, "Look!"

Falconclaw, who had raced off a few minutes prior, was racing towards the battle. Behind him stood Grayfoot, the clan deputy, along with Blazeflight, Flashclaw, and Streamwing.

The strong warriors lunged at the EmberClan cats, slashing and attacking them. The EmberClan patrol began to break away, yowling desperately.

As Fireshadow turned away, he looked behind his shoulder. "You got lucky, you dogs. Watch your backs."

A light, silver tabby tom from EmberClan laughed, almost stupidly. "Yeah! Dogs! Good one!" That earned the tabby a cuff on the head

from Fireshadow. "Shut up, fish-breath!"

The tom lowered his head and padded away, followed by the rest of the patrol. Irispaw saw the dappled tom a few pawsteps away, his own coat stained in blood.

"Are you...okay?"  Irispaw meowed softly, padding up to him.

The tom looked up, surprised by her comment.

*It's as if no cat's ever cared for him before!*

The apprentice nodded. "Yes. Thank you very much. You?" He spoke as if it was scripted.

Irispaw blinked. "I'm fine. My name is Irispaw," she grinned cheesily, waiting for a response. But no response came. "Um...What's your name?" she meowed, trying to sound lively.

After a long pause, the tom looked down, thinking, almost as if he had to think back in his history. The tom then took a deep breath, then finally muttered the word. "Cheetahpaw."

Irispaw gazed into his eyes. "Oh, well I--"

"Come now!" Fireshadow called to Cheetahpaw.

Cheetahpaw turned away, his tail drooping. He padded towards the EmberClan deputy.

Fireshadow noticed his drooping tail and growled, whacking Cheetahpaw in the face.

Cheetahpaw lifted his tail and scurried away. Irispaw could almost feel the sadness coming off of the dappled apprentice.

She was jerked out of her thoughts as she felt Stripepaw and Rainpaw whisk ahead of her, racing away with the DuskClan patrol, their pelts brushing against each other.

Falconstar padded up beside Irispaw. "You fought well."

Irispaw smiled. "Thanks."

Falconclaw studied Irispaw. "Tired?"

"Yeah, kinda."

Falconclaw smiled, then turned his head. "Oh, that's too bad. I was going to ask if youted to come to the clan gathering tonight. But, if you're too tired..." He grinned.

Irispaw bounced up, the tiredness melting away. "No! I'm not too tired! I can go!" Her eyes sparkled with excitement.

Falconclaw laughed, and fluffed up the fur on her head with his paw. "I thought you might say that."

Irispaw grinned. Falconclaw winked and padded away with the other cats.

As she returned, she felt the ground beneath her paws. It was lucious and sparkling with dew. The warm sun filled the sky with its golden glow, yet the air was cool.

*And it's starting to set!* Irispaw thought cheerfully. It was almost time for the gathering. After a day of waking up early, going through a ceremony, fighting off a patrol, and going to a gathering, she would definitely get a good night's sleep.

Irispaw flanked her sister and the five apprentices in the front of the patrol. Irispaw knew they would each make fine warriors. And she couldn't ask for better friends.

# Chapter three~ The flames of the night.

"All cats that were asked to join me and come to the gathering, Please step up!"

A crowd of cats padded out of their dens and made their way over to Talonstar. Irispaw noticed Slashpaw among them.

*I thought Grayfoot told him to rest!* Irispaw thought.

She and Rainpaw hadn't been too injured. But Stripepaw, Happypaw, and Slashpaw all had some pretty bad scratches and bruises. They were all informed to rest in camp.

Before Irispaw had the chance to talk to Slashpaw, Talonstar nodded and yowled, "We're off!"

The group of cats padded after him, out of camp and began their walk to The Fallen Branches. It was a long walk and a bit hard for a young apprentice. The clan's camp was the farthest from the gathering area, and Irispaw felt her legs getting tired immediately.

*Maybe Rainpaw will cheer me up.* Irispaw looked around for her sister among the cats, but she was racing ahead of the group, laughing, and running with Slashpaw.

With a sigh, Irispaw's shoulder's slouched. She gasped as she felt herself being lifted up.

Falconclaw twisted his body around and sat her down on his back. "Need some help?" he grinned.

Irispaw smiled and sat up.

She then looked ahead. Slashpaw was watching them with slanted eyes. He whispered something in Rainpaw's ear and they both laughed and raced further, clearly trying to ditch Irispaw.

Falconclaw must have noticed too, for he smiled and flexed his paws. "Hold on tight." Irispaw blinked and sunk her claws into his back fur, careful not to prick his skin.

Falconclaw raced ahead and Irispaw crouched down, holding on for dear life.*Wow, he can run fast!*

Falconclaw whisked past the two apprentices, the force causing Slashpaw to fall over. Irispaw couldn't hold back a giggle.

Rainpaw was watching too. She had a clouded look in her amber eyes. Before Irispaw knew it, Falconclaw stopped. He crouched down, allowing Irispaw to climb off.

Talonstar once again took the lead of his patrol, brushing through a large clump of ferns. The rest of the warriors walked in after him.

Slashpaw, Rainpaw, and Irispaw all carefully watched the ferns, afraid to step near it. It was Rainpaw who padded through first. A mew of suprise sounded in after her.

Slashpaw and Irispaw climbed in after her. Irispaw couldn't help but gasp at what she saw.

Four huge tree branches hung from the holly bushes, Each one a different type. They hung in the shape of many sun rays, almost. Each one splayed out at the cats. There were dozens of cats, more than Irispaw had ever seen. All kinds of pelt colors moved from the crowd. from tabbies to calico's, simple pelts to complex.

The glade was large, with lush grass. The full moon could be seen from under the leaves of the oak trees in the glade.

Falconclaw padded up beside her. "Take a seat nearby the other apprentices. Perhaps you'll make some friends." Irispaw nodded, padding up to a large group of young cats.

Many eyes turned towards her. All of the apprentices were sitting on a large boulder. She shifted her paws, facing the cats. "I'm Irispaw," she mewed.

The apprentices still stared, not speaking at all. Slashpaw and

Rainpaw broke from the group. "It's fine, everyone," Rainpaw mewed. "She's my sister."

The apprentices' attitudes seemed to change. "Hello, Irispaw!" most of them mewed warmly.

*I don't know how Rainpaw became so popular so fast…* Irispaw thought. *… But I think I like it.*

A dark ginger she-cat with white paws and ears smiled and cleared a spot for her. The she-cat's pretty green eyes gleamed at Irispaw.

Irispaw grinned and sat down. "I'm Irispaw."

The she-cat nodded. "I'm Robinpaw."

Irispaw smiled. "What clan are you in?"

"BlizzardClan," Robinpaw replied. "My leader's called Wolfstar."

Irispaw nodded. "Is this you're first gathering?" she asked.

"Yeah. I was made a apprentice two days ago."

Irispaw opened her mouth to answer, when she heard her father's yowl. Talonstar was standing on the DuskClan branch, a birch, his yellow gaze bright in the dark clearing.

Falconclaw was sitting next to her. "That's Willowstar, EmberClan's leader."

Irispaw turned her head. Willowstar was a small brown tabby she-cat with pale blue eyes.

"That's Emberclan's leader?" Rainpaw said, clearly surprised. "She's barely bigger than me!"

Falconclaw nodded. "She may be small, but her claws are long and sharp." He lifted a paw, showing a long scar on his stomach. "I know about how sharp they are."

Irispaw blinked. "That must've hurt," she mewed sympathetically.

Robinpaw looked up. "There's Wolfstar!"

Irispaw looked over at the magnolia tree branch. A large tom, almost as big as Talonstar, was sitting down. He had long, fluffy pale gray, almost white, fur. His eyes were round and blue.

"He's huge!" Slashpaw breathed.

Falconclaw turned his head and spoke,"That's Darkstar, NightClan's leader."

Irispaw gazed over at the oak tree branch. A pretty black she-cat was calmly sitting at the top of the branch. She had one silver paw and bright green eyes.

"She's pretty young, for a leader," Falconclaw mewed. "She was made deputy not long after becoming a warrior."

"Shh!" hissed Orchidblossom, sitting next to her brother, Falconclaw. "Talonstar's about to speak."

All of the cats turned their heads. Talonstar stood up. "Welcome to the Gathering." Meows of hello sounded from the crowd. Talonstar continued. "As for DuskClan's news, we have five new apprentices- Stripepaw, Happypaw, Slashpaw, Rainpaw, and Irispaw."

Slashpaw puffed out his chest. Rainpaw smiled, sitting up straight. Irispaw dipped her head, listening to the chanting of her name from the other clans. Even EmberClan was chanting, except for the cats that had went on the patrol earlier that day.

Talonstar waited for the noise to die down. "Other than that, prey has been plentiful. That's all." He nodded and sat down, wrapping his fluffy white tail around his paws.

Wolfstar swung his massive  head around, flexing his powerful shoulders. He stood up. "BlizzardClan has three new apprentices- Robinpaw, Fawnpaw, and Pinepaw."

Robinpaw smiled. Irispaw craned her neck and saw the two other apprentices. Fawnpaw was a very light brown she-cat with white dapples. Pinepaw was a dark gray tom with blazing blue eyes.

"Those are my littermates," Robinpaw whispered. "Fawnpaw's medicine cat apprentice."

Irispaw nodded.

"That is all." Wolfstar sat down again.

It was Darkstar who stood up next. She smiled. "NightClan's been doing very well. We have just made two new warriors, Frostfeather and Saberheart." The two warriors dipped their heads as the clans greeted them. Saberheart's extremely dark ginger, almost red pelt, stood out among the grass. Frostfeather's white and silver did as well.

"We also have plenty of kits in the nursery." Darkstar smiled again. "NightClan won't be running low on warriors anytime soon."

Slashpaw leaned in and scornfully whispered, "Behold Braggingstar, leader of NightClan."

Irispaw rolled her eyes at the joke he'd used many times.

Rainpaw giggled.

Darkstar nodded and sat down.

Willowstar quickly padded forward, up her pine tree branch. She looked even smaller next to the three other leaders. She opened her mouth and began to speak in a high-pitched, icy voice.

"I'm very happy to hear about the other clans' success. Unfortunately, EmberClan doesn't have such good luck." She turned her head towards Fireshadow. "Fireshadow would like to share some news."

The ginger tom nodded and jumped up beside his mate. "Yes, I do. This morning, I was leading a patrol peacefully on my border. Then my poor patrol was ambushed by a large line of DuskClan warriors." The clans all gasped.

Irispaw felt Rainpaw bristling beside her, and Slashpaw looked as if he was ready to jump up and rip Fireshadow's throat open.

Fireshadow went on. "We did our best to fight them off, but there were too many. They even murdered one of our young warriors, Brownpelt."

Rainpaw's ears flattened, guilt and surprise flashing in her eyes. NightClan and BlizzardClan's warriors were yowling in shock and anger. Two NightClan warriors were bristling at Orchidblossom and Rainpaw. Slashpaw and Falconclaw jumped in front of them, growling.

Fireshadow's voice grew louder. "We tried everything to save him, but couldn't. Our warriors in the patrol that were wounded the worst are currently in camp, trying to rest and recover from this terrible incident."

Fireshadow pretended to tear up. "I'm so sorry that I couldn't do anything for any of them," he said sadly, obviously pretending to cry.

Talonstar was bristling in fury. "We did no such thing! You lying fox of a cat!"

Fireshadow ignored him.

Robinpaw turned to Irispaw. "Why would you do such a thing?!" she growled.

Irispaw blinked. 'No, Robinpaw, he-"

She was cut off as the moon began to darken as clouds covered it.

The cats gazed at the sky. "Starclan is angry! Dur dur, donkey spittle!" an elder shouted.

Talonstar yowled, "This gathering is over!" He leapt off his branch.

Irispaw turned, trying to explain to Robinpaw what really happened, but the BlizzardClan she-cat had turned away with Pinepaw and Fawnpaw, giving the DuskClan warriors glares.

She saw Slashpaw in the corner of the glade, bristling. Fireshadow was in front of him.

"Let me pass, fox-breath!" Slashpaw growled.

Fireshadow snarled. "Why would I?"

"I'll tear you're neck open!" Slashpaw growled.

"I'd like to see you try." Fireshadow smiled, obviously doubting him.

"I could snap you're frail little neck in seconds,"Fireshadow hissed.

"Oh yeah? I'd like to see you try!"

Rainpaw sailed over Fireshadow, jumping in front of Slashpaw. "Get you're little she-kitty tail out of here before I turn you into my new nest." she snarled, fluffing up so she looked twice her size. Her claws were extended, ready to attack.

Fireshadow opened his mouth for a sharp retort, but Rainpaw lifted a claw and placed it at the tip of his neck, near his throat. "I mean it, skunk-breath."

The EmberClan deputy paused for a minute. He knew better than to go any further, but he backed away and whispered, "Just be careful where you put your paws." Rainpaw let a wave of anger flash across her face and padded away, Slashpaw laughing and racing after her.

As Duskclan began to pad away, Irispaw followed the two apprentices. She saw them sitting ahead, giggling and playfully pawing each other. Irispaw carefully watched. *You can't be too careful when it comes to Slashpaw.* Irispaw hastily thought.

*You never know, may-*

She was jerked out of her thoughts when she saw Rainpaw lean forward and lick Slashpaw on the cheek. He smiled and nuzzled her.

Irispaw was shocked. *How couldn't I see this coming?*

Irispaw had never fully trusted Slashpaw. Scornful, rude, and smug. He seemed like a younger version of Fireshadow. *And know I know*

*my sister loves him…*

Irispaw's tail drooped. "She's nothing like him.."

# Theme Songs. -Oh yesh.

Irispaw-Sober. (Kelly Clarkson.)

Rainpaw-Wide awake. (Katy Perry.)

Slashpaw-Hurt. (Thousand Foot Crutch.)

Stripepaw-Cannibal. (Ke$ha.)

Cheetahpaw-Quiet like the snow. (Devil wears prada)

Falconclaw-Awake and Alive. (Skillet.)

Silverpaw-Behind these hazel eyes. (Kelly Clarkson.)

Fireshadow-Pet. (Perfect circle.)

# Chapter four~ I've never realized...

"Ugh! This is taking forever!"

Rainpaw rolled her eyes. "What would you expect, Slashpaw? I here kitting takes time."

Slashpaw scoffed. "Well, I'm glad I'm a Tom, then."

The silver and white she-cat grinned and pushed him. "At least she-cats don't smell like you do."

"Oh, yeah?"

Slashpaw laughed and cuffed Rainpaw's ear. Rainpaw smiled and aimed a swipe at the red Tom's shoulder.

"Would you two shut up?" Scarheart hissed, gaurding the outside of the nursery. "Whispersong can't kit when two apprentices are playing like a bunch of fools!"

Foggymist, who had also been gaurding, gave Scarheart a look. The two she-cat's didn't exactly have a pleasant history.

Jaybreeze smiled. "Don't be so hard on them, Scarheart. Apprentices will be apprentices."

Scarheart growled and stalked away, muttering curses under her breath.

A awkward silence passed through Jaybreeze and Foggymist. The two cats exchanged glances.

Rainpaw shifted her paws.

Finally, Sparrowpaw broke through the lichen. "The kitting is done! Two toms and a she-kit!"

Shadowstorm, Whispersong's mate, smiled and padded into the nursery.

Foggymist and Jaybreeze exchanged glances once again, this time the two cat's eyes shining.

Slashpaw rolled his eyes. "Cheesy!"

Rainpaw flicked a ear, wondering what her sister would think of this scene. She sighed. Irispaw would probably be just as cheesy. Rainpaw thought. What a air-head.

Lunamist poked her head outside. "Learning about clan life is very important." The medicine cat mewed. "Would you like to go see the kits?"

"Uh... Okay." Rainpaw meowed quietly.

"Sure." Slashpaw said.

As Lunamist nodded and dissapeared into the nursery, Slashpaw pretended to gag. Rainpaw grimanced and got up, padding inside.

Whispersong was now quiet, the tortishell clearly tired. Shadowstorm looked ready to burst with pride.

Rainpaw awkwardly nodded and gazed at the kits. One tom was a light brown, flecked with gray on his paws and sides. The she-cat was a shimmery silver with a white stripe down her back, and the biggest tom was a bright golden.

"The brown tom is Thistlekit." Whispersong mewed.

"The golden tom is Sunkit." Shadowstorm said.

"And the she-cat.." Whispersong gazed at her daughter. "Is Shimmerkit."

Rainpaw nodded. Thistlekit squirmed and pushed his siblings, mewing loudly.

"Ha!" Rainpaw laughed. "He's just like you."

Slashpaw smirked and whispered, "But I'm cuter."

"In you're dreams!" Rainpaw laughed.

Scarheart had came back. "The kits are trying to sleep." She growled. "Get out, you two!"

Rainpaw smirked and flicked her tail. Slashpaw rolled his eyes and padded out of the nursery.

Rainpaw sat down, washing a paw. "I'll be right back." Slashpaw mewed, dashing off.

She nodded, Stretching, then sat down. Rainpaw couldn't forget when Slashpaw had nuzzled her last night. She hadn't ever expected the red Tom to have feelings for him, but he did.

Slashpaw came back shortly after. "Here." He mewed simply, dropping a vole at her paws.

Rainpaw smiled. "My favorite. Thanks."

The blue eyed Tom nodded. "It's.. No trouble."

Slashpaw sat down and took a bite out of his squirrel.

After a few minutes, the two apprentices had finished their meals, sitting up.

"So..." Slashpaw began. "Fine weather we're having, Hm?"

"Um... I guess." Rainpaw awkwardly shifted her weight.

Slashpaw had remained silent for a moment, before bursting out, "Wanna go for a walk?"

Rainpaw bliinked, then quickly mewed, "Yeah... Sure."

Slashpaw slightly smiled and nodded for a second, then got up. Rainpaw stood up as well.

Not speaking for a few moments, The two apprentices..

(I'll finish this chapter at some point.. The story line gets much more interesting as it goes along, but I've been suffering from writer's block lately. :I)

# Fun facts!

Get ready for some.. rather stupid Irisflower's Hope fun-facts!

-The title was originally Irisflower's Fight.

-Slashpaw's original name was Strikepaw.

-Irispaw originally had blue eyes.

-Stripepaw was planned to be a tom.

-Happypaw was planned to die as a kit.

-The plot was originally much, much different, Highly gory, but that was later scrapped.

Well.. Yeah. If I can remember any more, I'll add.

Bye-o!